

[7th March, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

Reviewing the Policy on Cinema Industry

1038. SHRI PREM CHAND GUPTA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have called for a review of the State Government's Policy on the cinema industry;

(b) whether a recent survey has revealed that there is a need for more infrastructure, simplification of licensing, rationalisation of taxes etc. in order to develop a healthy and vibrant industry; and

(c) if so, what has been the reaction of the State Governments on this proposal?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) has brought out a report on the "Indian Entertainment Industry—Strategy and Vision". The report analysis the present status and future potential growth of various sectors of entertainment industry and suggest measures to realize the same.

A Committee for development of the Entertainment Sector has been set up comprising State Ministers for Information and Public Relations from nine States, with the Minister of Information and Broadcasting as the Chairperson and the Minister of State for Information and Broadcasting as the Vice-Chairperson to suggest a policy framework, both at the Centre and in the States, for realizing the potential of the entertainment sector.

Allowing foreign print media

1039. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal before Government to allow the foreign print media in the country reversing the 1955/56 cabinet decision;

(b) if so, the reasons for allowing foreign print media;

(c) whether there is any thinking going on in her Ministry to amend article 19 of the Constitution; and

(d) if so, the details thereon?